6/19/71

Dear Harold,

This is in response to your latest mailing which arrived today. I am terribly rushed since I will be leaving for NY tomorrow, where I'll return the Sauer stuff and contact Jerry, etc. A memo is included on some things I just got from A, one of which will surely be of interest to you.

Sorry to hear you lost the Clthing case. However, your letters about what you perceive as a victory or even a gov't concession lead me to believe that you have not understood or realized what the gov't has been willing to do all along. You wrote, "...the Archives will take such pictures as I require for me, but not give me copies. They will let me examine them. That in itself is a mojor breakthrough, as I see it." If you didn't realize that they would have done this for you even before you filed suit, then I am a little surprised.

With little time, I took a quick glance through the copies of your A correspondence which you have sent. Angel's long letter to you dated 8/19/70 says, top p. 3, "We will also prepare photographs of the damaged area of the knot of the necktie in CE 395 which we will show you in the (Archives) without furnishing prints to you." I take this to mean they will do this with all the clothing. Vawter's letter to you of 9/17/70 says this explicitly. So, I am at a loss to see the "major breakthrough." And if I recall, when I was there last summer, I gave you several suggestions as to what pictures you should have them prepare.

In addition to those you request of Rhoads, I would personally want to see color slides of the following: Front and rear views of the hole in the back of the shirt and same for jacket. Also with slits. There are advantages to color, esp for traces of dirt or grime or burn left by bullet, which could not be told in B&W. Just clearer in general.

Also, I imagine you must be keeping what the WP is printing on the secret Pentagon study. However, I cannot get the WP here. If you could send me the direct excerpts they have printed, to date I believe on Eisenhower and Dulles, I would copy it and return to you or, if you want, just file it with the other Viet stuff of yours that I now have. There's nothing else you need send, since we're getting it all here also, except for excerpts from the docs themselves.

I cringe at the thought of what they must include on JFK, how they must rape his policy change. Esp since this was ordered by MCNamara, who I have already seen is protected in the docs and who, according to one source, is "haunted" by the 1963 withdrawal statement. Ted Kennedy' called for the release of the docs on his brother's policy, which makes me wonder. Also making me wonder is that fact that a Kennedy staffer was given advance notice of the publication in the NYT.

Must go. (Oh yes--Nichols wrote me and offered to sponsor me as his guest at AMA convention in Jersey. Will be in NY at time, but wouldn't have gone anyway). My best to Lil. Thank her for clips.

Stay well,

Howard